

Alexandria Waterfront Committee Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities 1108 Jefferson Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314



November 1, 2011

Richard J. Baier, Director
Department of Transportation and Environmental Services
City of Alexandria
301 King Street
Room 4100
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Baier:

This letter summarizes the position of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee regarding parking near the Waterfront and urges near-term action by the City to begin to address this issue.

The key finding of the recent Old Town Area Parking Study is that issues with Old Town parking relate to proximity, rate, and availability and not to overall capacity. The study—and the City's Draft Waterfront Plan—recommends better management of the existing supply to serve present and future demand for parking in Old Town.

The Waterfront Committee recommends that the City establish a Parking Implementation Group to begin to address the recommendations of the Old Town Area Parking Study. We urge the immediate implementation of strategies aimed at maximizing existing capacity—including wayfinding, limited valet parking, and shuttle services—coupled with enhanced enforcement of existing parking policies in adjacent residential areas. A pilot program will mitigate existing parking issues, and provide a model as a new Waterfront Small Area Plan is implemented. There is no reason to wait to address the parking issues that presently exist. Let's test this concept *now*, prior to development, to see if it works.

We would like to invite you and your staff to discuss your progress towards accomplishing these recommendations with the Waterfront Committee at our November 15, 2011 meeting, scheduled for 7:30 a.m. in Room 2000 of City Hall. I will contact you directly to confirm your availability.

Director Baier November 1, 2011 Page 2

If you have questions or would like to discuss this in the mean time, please contact me at 202-365-2927 (mobile) or natemacek@hotmail.com.

On behalf of the Alexandria Waterfront Committee and the broad Citywide constituencies we represent, thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Nathan M. Macek, Chair

Alexandria Waterfront Committee

CC: Kevin Posey, Chair, Alexandria Transportation Commission

Thomas "Jay" Johnson, Jr., Chair, Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board

Bruce Johnson, Acting City Manager

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Faroll Hamer, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning

Jack Browand, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities

Cheryl Lawrence, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities

Jim Hixon, Department of Recreation Parks and Cultural Activities

Alexandria Waterfront Committee